

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9 and 11-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are each amended to incorporate the features of claim 2; claim 6 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 7; claims 2 and 7 are canceled; and claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 are amended to change their dependency from canceled claims to pending claims. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Shapiro at the interview held October 19, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

**I. Information Disclosure Statement**

References 1 and 2 previously listed in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on November 18, 2003 were not acknowledged as having been considered by the Examiner. Applicant attached a revised form PTO-1449 corresponding to the references listed in the November 18, 2003 IDS to the Amendment filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 25, 2006. Acknowledgement of consideration of the references cited therein is respectfully requested.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-13 contain allowable subject matter. To this end, Applicant amended claim 11 to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 10 in the August 25, 2006 Amendment. Accordingly, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the personal interview at least claim 11, as well as claims 12 and 13 dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 5 are herein amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 2, and claim 6 is herein amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 7.

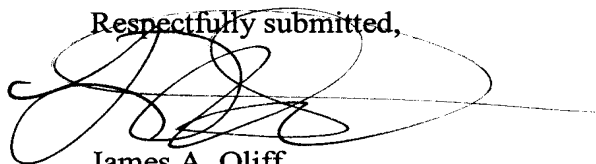
Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the personal interview, claims 1, 5 and 6, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

### **III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel  
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/eks

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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